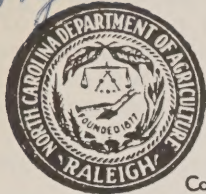


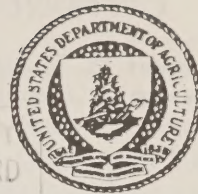
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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



No. 163

RALEIGH, N. C.

AUG 2 1954

JULY 16, 1954

DROUGHT HURTING TOBACCO

1954 COTTON ACREAGE CUT SHARPLY

Based upon July 1 yield and condition reports from farmers, 1954 flue-cured tobacco production in the Tar Heel State is forecast at 843,300,000 pounds. Such a crop would be about 11 million pounds heavier than last year's crop, when total production was 832 million pounds. Acreage increases over last year, coupled with a potentially better crop in Type 11 areas, account for the slight increase in prospective production.

Moderate to severe drought conditions, particularly in many localities of the Eastern and Border Belts, have cut potential yields sharply. Dry weather has hurt the crop to some extent in the Old and Middle Belts but comparatively less severely than in the other areas.

Estimated flue-cured production by types in the State this year compares with 1953 as follows: Type 11, 305,900,000 pounds this year compares with 261,870,000 pounds in 1953; Type 12, 434,200,000 compares with 450,160,000; Type 13, 103,200,000 compares with 120,275,000 pounds.

Burley production in North Carolina is currently estimated at 19,440,000 pounds for 1954, about 5 percent below the 20,520,000 pounds harvested in 1953.

Acreagewise, flue-cured producers in the State expect to harvest 686,000 acres this season, or about 2 percent more than the 674,000 acres harvested in 1953. The 1954 flue-cured acreage by types compares with 1953 as follows: Type 11, 266,000 acres in 1954 compares with 258,000 in 1953; Type 12, 334,000 compares with 331,000; Type 13, 86,000 compares with 85,000.

Burley acreage for harvest in the State this year at 10,800 acres is about 5 per-

(See "TOBACCO" Page 2)

Based upon reports from cotton growers throughout the State, it is estimated that 585,000 acres of cotton were in cultivation on North Carolina farms July 1 - the lowest acreage on this date since early in the 1870's. This is a reduction of 25 percent or 197,000 acres from the acreage in cultivation July 1, 1953, and 19 percent below the 10-year July 1 average of 718,000 acres in cultivation, according to the first cotton report of the 1954 season. If abandonment this year equals the 10-year (1944-53) average of 1.4 percent, North Carolina growers will harvest about 577,000 acres.

The 1954 season to date has not been the most favorable for cotton production. April was the warmest of record for the State, followed by a May with temperatures averaging 4 degrees below normal and the coldest May of record in some areas of the State. The cold weather in May set the crop back considerably, causing some abandonment and leaving thin stands in many of the cotton growing sections of the State.

Aided by the hot, dry weather, growers in most areas have been able to keep weevil infestation fairly well in check.

The first production forecast of the 1954 season will be released August 9.

It is estimated that there were 19,961,000 acres of cotton in cultivation July 1 for the country as a whole - 21 percent less than the 25,244,000 acres in cultivation July 1 last year and 11 percent less than the 10-year average of 22,428,000 acres. For the major cotton producing States East of the Mississippi River, reductions in acreage from 1953 ranged from 19 percent in Georgia to 30

(See "COTTON" Page 2)

COTTON (Continued from Page 1)

percent in Tennessee. West of the Mississippi, reductions from acreage the previous year ranged from 16 percent in Texas to 40 percent in Arizona.

COTTON ACREAGE IN CULTIVATION JULY 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

State	Average Aband 1944-53*	Average 1943-52 (000)	1953 (000)	1954 (000)
	Percent	Acres	Acres	Acres
N. C.	1.4	718	732	585
S. C.	0.6	1,071	1,181	870
Ga.	0.8	1,354	1,382	1,125
Tenn.	1.5	743	958	670
Ala.	0.6	1,542	1,630	1,230
Miss.	2.5	2,431	2,554	1,970
Mo.	3.2	465	561	465
Ark.	2.6	1,996	2,112	1,735
La.	1.7	857	967	705
Okla.	5.9	1,275	1,068	1,000
Texas	3.9	8,708	9,568	8,000
N. M.	2.5	196	323	210
Ariz.	0.4	308	693	416
Calif.	0.5	684	1,348	907
Others	3.4	81	117	73
U. S.	2.8	22,428	25,244	19,961

*Abandonment from natural causes.

TOBACCO (Continued from Page 1)

cent below the 11,400 acres harvested last year.

Total U. S. flue-cured production is currently forecast at 1,243,512,000 pounds -- 2.3 percent less than the 1,272,200,000 pounds harvested in 1953.

SWEETPOTATO CROP SHORT

A 1954 sweetpotato crop of 4 million bushels is estimated on the basis of July 1 reports from growers in North Carolina. The North Carolina Crop Reporting Service advises that such a crop would be 15 percent or 725,000 bushels under production last year, and one-third less than the 10-year (1943-52) average production of 5,983,000 bushels.

It is estimated that North Carolina growers will harvest 40,000 acres of sweetpotatoes this year -- 5,000 acres less than the acreage harvested in 1953 and 16,300 acres less than the average. The 40,000 acres for harvest this year is only 3,000 acres above the record low 37,000 acres harvested in 1951.

JUNE BROILER PLACEMENTS

There were 5,083,000 broiler chicks placed with producers in the Central-Western Commercial Broiler Areas of N. C. during the month of June -- 5 percent less than the record 5,360,000 chicks placed in May in the same areas. During the month of June last year placements amounted to 4,905,000 chicks.

BEAN ACREAGE UP

Recent reports from soybean producers indicate that they expect to harvest 289,000 acres of the crop for beans this year. Such an acreage would be about 10 percent larger than the 263,000 acres harvested in 1953 and nearly 14 percent larger than the 1943-52 average.

PEACH PROSPECTS LOWEST SINCE 1950

North Carolina's peach crop is now forecast at 960 thousand bushels -- 90,000 bushels less than the June 1 estimate, 220,000 bushels below the 1953 crop and 689,000 bushels under the 10-year average crop of 1,649,000 bushels. If the July 1 estimate is realized, it will be the shortest peach crop since 1950.

SORGHUMS UP SHARPLY

It is currently estimated that farmers in North Carolina will harvest 112,000 acres of sorghums for all uses this year. This compares with 77,000 acres harvested in 1953 and the 1943-52 average of 35,000 acres.

HAY PROSPECTS ABOUT AVERAGE

The State's hay crop prospects for 1954 are near average. Reported condition of the various hays as of July 1, 1954 indicate a total production of 1,278,000 tons from an estimated 1,224,000 acres for harvest, or a prospective all-hay yield of 1.04 tons per harvested acre. The above production, if realized, would be 12 percent above the short 1953 crop when 1,145,000 tons were produced on 1,164,000 acres and would be just short of the 1943-52 average crop of 1,287,000 tons from 1,270,000 acres.

Growth obtained from small grains this spring was quite good and the yield of grain hay equaled previous record high levels. July 1 reported condition would indicate most other hays would yield near average. Although current lespedeza hay prospects are better than last year's poor turnout, they are expected to be less productive than average.

PROSPECTIVE NORTH CAROLINA CORN PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1945

On the basis of condition reports from growers, as of July 1, production from the current Tar Heel corn crop is forecast at 55,562,000 bushels. This is the lowest production of corn in the State since 1945 when 55,100,000 bushels were produced. A 1954 corn crop of 55,562,000 bushels would be 2,137,000 bushels or 3.7 percent less than the drought-stricken crop of 57,699,000 bushels last year.

The average yield per acre for the current crop is forecast at 26 bushels. This is the second lowest yield per acre since 1945 and compares with an average of 27 bushels last year. The lowest yield since 1945 was set in 1952 with an average of 25.3 bushels.

The harvested acreage for 1954 is forecast at 2,137,000 acres, which is the same as the acreage harvested last year.

Extended dry weather combined with abnormally high temperatures has damaged the corn crop in most areas of the State. The hot, dry weather has been particularly damaging to the portion of the corn crop now in the tasseling and silking stage of maturity.

RECORD OATS CROP

The 1954 oats crop which growers have just completed harvesting, is estimated at 18,038,000 bushels - by far the largest ever produced in North Carolina. Acreage was 15 percent above that harvested last year and yields averaged only one bushel below the record established by the 1953 crop. The 18,038,000 bushels harvested this year compares with 16,093,000 bushels from the 1953 crop and the 10-year (1943-52) average production of 10,749,400 bushels.

Growers harvested 481,000 acres for grain this year, 63,000 acres more than in 1953. The 10-year average acreage harvested is 362,800 acres. The yield per acre, at 37.5 bushels, compares with the record set in 1953 of 38.5 bushels and the 10-year average yield of 29.4 bushels.

SMALLEST WHEAT ACREAGE SINCE 1930

With harvest of North Carolina's 1954 wheat crop near completion, growers' reports indicate a State average yield of 22 bushels per acre -- 1.5 bushels above yields from the 1953 crop and only 1 bushel short of the record 23.0 bushels harvested in 1951.

Production from this year's crop is placed at 6,952,000 bushels, about equal to the 10-year (1943-52) average production but 15 percent short of the 8,200,000 bushel crop of 1953 and the smallest harvest since 1950.

Weather conditions during harvest were almost ideal and the crop was gathered with a minimum of harvesting losses. However, stands were not up to normal due to the unfavorably dry fall planting season and some winter kill from colder than normal winter temperatures.

The estimated 316,000 acres harvested this year, except for the 1930 crop of 265,000 acres harvested, is the smallest since 1866. Growers harvested 400,000 acres last year and the 10-year 1943-52 average for the State is 416,000 acres. The reduction in acreage this year is attributed to the wheat acreage control program which called for a 26 percent decrease in planted acreage.

NORTH CAROLINA

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, JULY 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1943-52	Harvested 1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954
Corn, All.....	Bu.	2, 220	2, 137	2, 137	27.9	27.0	26.0	61,914	57,699	55,562
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	416	400	316	16.7	20.5	22.0	6,915	8,200	6,952
Oats.....	Bu.	363	418	481	29.4	38.5	37.5	10,749	16,093	18,038
Barley.....	Bu.	38	44	53	27.2	37.5	34.0	1,035	1,650	1,802
Rye.....	Bu.	24	16	19	12.4	14.5	15.0	284	232	285
TOBACCO: Type 11.....	Lbs.	269.2	258.0	266.0	1, 104	1, 015	1, 150	297,774	261,870	305,900
Type 12.....	Lbs.	337.2	331.0	334.0	1, 219	1, 360	1, 300	411,216	450,160	434,200
Type 13.....	Lbs.	83.2	85.0	86.0	1, 190	1, 415	1, 200	99,429	120,275	103,200
All Flue-Cured.....	Lbs.	689.6	674.0	686.0	1, 171	1, 235	1, 229	808,419	832,305	843,300
Type 31, Burley....	Lbs.	10.9	11.4	10.8	1, 540	1, 800	1, 800	16,824	20,520	19,440
Cotton <u>L</u>	Lbs.	718	782	585	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum, All.....	-	35	77	112	-	-	-	-	-	-
Irish Potatoes.....	Bu.	69	46	40	134	133	158	9,095	2/6, 118	6,320
Sweet Potatoes.....	Bu.	56	45	40	106	105	100	5,983	4,725	4,000
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	400	397	413	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	254	263	289	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes.	-	286	184	175	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed..	Lbs.	269	177	-	1, 139	1, 530	-	300,811	270,810	-
HAY: All.....	Tons	1, 270	1, 164	1, 224	1.01	.98	1.04	1,287	1,145	1,278
Clover & Timothy <u>3</u> /....	Tons	97	98	92	1.14	1.10	1.10	110	108	101
Alfalfa.....	Tons	36	70	78	2.10	2.00	2.10	76	140	164
Lespedeza.....	Tons	516	488	532	1.07	.85	1.00	554	415	532
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	82	71
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,649	1,180	960
Apples, Commercial <u>4</u> /....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,172	873	2,100
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	158	134	130
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	2.5	2.7

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1.

2/ 105,000 bushels commercial early potatoes not marketed.

3/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.

4/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple area of the state.

UNITED STATES

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, JULY 1, WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1943-52	Harvested 1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954
Corn, All.....	Bu.	85,820	80,279	80,164	35.7	39.6	41.3	3,057,464	3,176,615	3,311,493
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	46,716	46,681	38,090	17.7	18.8	19.9	832,977	877,511	758,440
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	66,025	67,608	53,726	17.0	17.3	18.4	1,121,506	1,168,536	988,321
Oats.....	Bu.	39,526	39,358	41,980	33.3	30.9	36.8	1,316,359	1,216,416	1,544,674
Barley.....	Bu.	10,960	8,534	12,885	25.3	28.2	28.9	274,955	241,015	372,519
Rye.....	Bu.	1,867	1,382	1,706	11.9	13.0	13.5	22,149	17,998	23,102
TOBACCO: Flue-Cured.....	Lbs.	1028.8	1021.8	1039.0	1,164	1,245	1,197	1,199,981	1,272,200	1,243,512
Burley.....	Lbs.	452.5	422.7	396.3	1,234	1,348	1,373	558,923	569,868	544,015
All Types.....	Lbs.	1716.8	1634.2	1631.8	1,183	1,259	1,239	2,033,432	2,057,221	2,021,923
Cotton $\frac{1}{2}$	Lbs.	22,428	25,244	19,961	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghums, All.....	-	13,681	12,397	18,489	-	-	-	-	-	-
Irish Potatoes.....	Bu.	2138.3	1508.3	1380.9	202.3	247.8	250.3	409,027	373,711	345,622
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	547.1	349.7	345.5	92.9	97.2	94.6	50,637	33,974	32,669
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	13,523	16,085	18,825	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	11,559	14,366	17,329	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes.	-	3,424	1,882	1,914	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed..	Lbs.	2,762	1,514	-	742	1,031	-	1,979,865	1,588,415	-
HAY: All.....	Tons	74,629	73,918	75,984	1.37	1.42	1.41	101,959	105,300	107,494
Alfalfa.....	Tons	16,196	20,269	22,716	2.21	2.19	2.13	35,759	44,374	48,336
Clover & Timothy $\frac{2}{3}$	Tons	22,208	20,761	19,717	1.41	1.44	1.38	31,236	29,851	27,232
Lespedeza.....	Tons	6,521	4,653	5,174	1.05	.89	.98	6,851	4,129	5,079
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	76	78
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,596	64,473	62,721
Apples, Commercial $\frac{3}{4}$	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,802	92,877	101,999
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,466	29,081	28,831
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2951.1	2696,0	2702.5

$\frac{1}{2}$ Acres in cultivation July 1.

$\frac{2}{3}$ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.

$\frac{3}{4}$ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state.

WEATHER SUMMARY, JUNE, 1954

June was a month of extremes, and consequently hard on living things, plant and animal alike. Cold weather records were broken about the end of the first week and hot weather records the end of the fourth week. Rainfall was generally light, with a few places having record low amounts. On the other hand, the few places that did have normal amounts of rain received it in the form of heavy showers that were often more destructive than helpful.

During the first half of June, weather patterns changed with reasonable regularity, with moderately frequent passages of weather fronts and changes from high to low pressure. Then at mid-month high pressure settled slowly southward from the north Atlantic states, and dominated the weather for most of the remainder of the month.

Weather was unusually cold at the end of the first week in June, with some localities having their coldest June temperature of record around the morning of the 5th. Bright sunshine soon brought the mercury back up to normal, however, and it remained warm until after mid-month. Another cool spell lasted from about the 15th to the 20th. This was followed by sunny weather that lasted the remainder of the month, sending the mercury on a gradual climb that brought it up to new June high records at many places on the

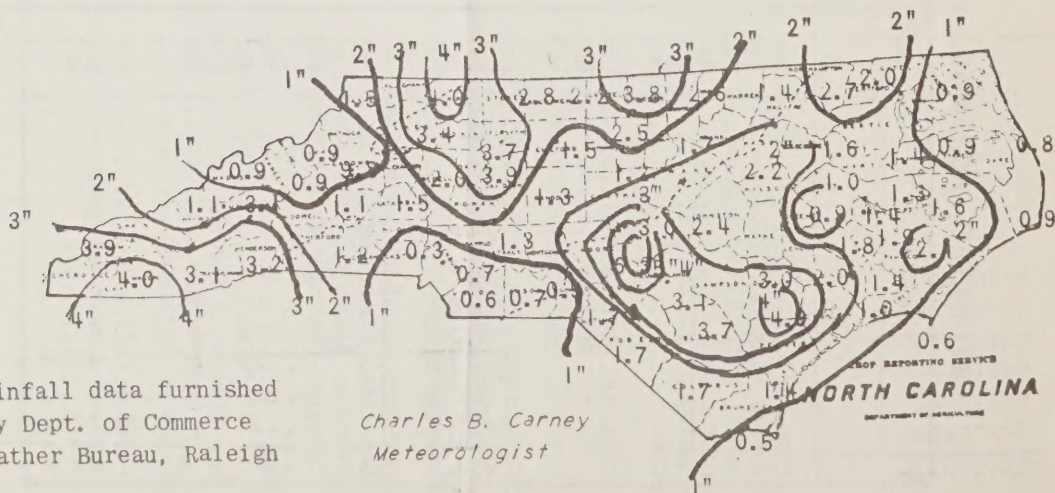
afternoon of the 27th. Temperatures reached 107 degrees at several places, with 100 degree readings reported as far west as the Tennessee border. With all these ups and downs, the average temperature for the month over the State was about normal.

Rainfall in June was extremely variable, but only a very few places received as much as the long-term average amount for June, and even those few places were dry during the last ten or twelve days of the month. Amounts reported range from 0.31 inch at Gastonia up to over seven inches at Southern Pines. In the latter case practically all the rain fell in two heavy showers near the middle of the month. Showers were fairly frequent (though mostly light and scattered) over the State during the first 18 days of June after that time there was very little rain. There were several severe electrical storms in connection with the mid-month showers and a few isolated local storms near the coast during the hot weather toward the end of the month.

IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION UP

As of July 1, North Carolina total Irish potato production is set at 6, - 320,000 bushels -- a 3 percent increase over the 1953 production. If this production is realized, it will give an average yield of 158 bushels per acre from the State's 40,000 acres of potatoes.

NORTH CAROLINA, INCHES OF RAINFALL, JUNE, 1954



JUNE EGG PRODUCTION OFF

North Carolina egg production during 1954 is placed at 115 million eggs, 3.6 percent above the June 1953 production and 13 percent below the May 1954 production of 133 million eggs. The 18 million decline from May to June of 1954 follows a normal seasonal pattern.

The average number of layers on N. C. farms during June 1954 was placed at 7.5 million, the same as during May 1954, but is 1.2 percent above the average number on farms during June a year earlier.

Farm flocks in the Nation laid 5.3 billion eggs in June -- 4 percent more than in June last year and 3 percent above the 1943-52 average.

RECORD APPLE CROP, MORE GRAPES — FEWER PEARS

A North Carolina commercial apple crop of 2,100,000 bushels for 1954 has been forecast. This first forecast of production for the season compares with the comparatively small crop of 873,000 bushels harvested in 1953, and is above any other year during the past 20-year period when estimates of commercial apple production have been published.

Pear prospects in the State continue to point to a North Carolina crop of 130,000 bushels. Such a crop would be 4,000 bushels less than the 1953 crop and 28,000 bushels under the 10-year average crop of 158,000 bushels.

Grape production in the State this year is estimated at 2,700 tons, 200 tons above production last year, and the same tonnage as produced in 1952.

JUNE MILK PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL

Estimated milk production on farms in North Carolina totaled 169 million pounds during June -- the highest June flow ever recorded in the State. Production during the month was only 4 million pounds shy of the 173 million pounds produced in May of this year when production was the heaviest ever recorded for any month in the State. A further comparison shows that production during June of this year was nearly 8 percent above the 157 million pounds milked during June 1953.

The number of milk cows (dry and milking) on farms in the State during the month was estimated at 395,000, the largest number of record and 13,000 above June 1953. Thus, the average production per cow in herd during the month was 428 pounds.

June milk output on United States farms totaled 12.7 billion pounds, the second largest production for the month in 25 years of records, having been exceeded only in 1945.

PEANUT ACREAGE DOWN

Total peanut acreage in North Carolina was estimated at 175,000 acres as of July 1. This compares with 184,000 acres grown for all purposes last year and is the smallest total acreage planted since 1923.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS JULY 1 *

Crop	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
- Thousand Bushels -						
Corn....	13,660	9,956	9,890	729,234	984,975	986,080
Wheat...	439	300	369	82,555	73,105	102,997
Oats....	860	761	1,287	227,378	218,757	204,050
Barley..	77	140	116	44,700	25,479	34,945
Rye.....	13	7	9	3,522	1,500	2,845
Soybeans	178	95	57	8,243	20,393	3,566

*Old crop

FARM REPORT

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RECORD BARLEY CROP

The 1954 North Carolina barley crop is forecast at 1,802,000 bushels. This is 152,000 bushels or 9.2 percent more than the 1953 crop of 1,650,000 bushels.

The 1954 record crop is the result of growers increasing their harvested acreage from 44,000 in 1953 to 53,000 acres this year. The average yield per acre is forecast at 34 bushels compared with the record yield of 37.5 bushels last year. Smut damage to the crop was greater than last year and much of the crop was seeded on dry soils last fall, resulting in poor stands in most instances.

RYE PRODUCTION UP

The State's 1954 rye crop is now estimated at 285,000 bushels. This compares with the 1953 crop of 232,000 bushels and the 1952 crop of 225,000 bushels. Yield per acre from this year's crop is estimated at 15.0 bushels -- one-half bushel above the average last year and equal to the record set by the 1952 crop.

The acreage harvested for grain, at 19,000 acres, is 19 percent or 3,000 acres larger than that harvested last year and 4,000 acres more than that harvested in 1952.